

I strongly urge and challenge my colleagues and this administration to demonstrate their concern for their constituents and all American workers by publicly adopting this same pledge.

We owe nothing less to the 28 victims of the L'Ambiance Plaza disaster.

Thank you.●

REMEMBERING INA BOON

● Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, Missouri has lost a true crusader of the civil rights movement. Ina Boon passed away Monday, February 27, in St. Louis, at the age of 90 after dedicating her life to fighting and advocating for justice and equality through her long tenure at the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP.

Ina Boon started as a volunteer for the St. Louis Branch of the NAACP. She quickly demonstrated her tenacity and strong leadership skills to work her way up in the organization. Ms. Boon's work included a position at the NAACP headquarters in New York, but she is best known for the work she did as the region IV director of the national NAACP office. In that role, she became the national office's longest serving regional director.

Over the years, she became a fearless advocate and organizer, helping to address racial inequities in the workplace. Even in the face of adversity, she was not deterred. When her counterpart Medgar Evers was killed in 1963, Ina Boon sent her children to live with family members in Wisconsin, while she continued to push for changes. For over 50 years, Ina Boon worked in various roles for the NAACP, never ceasing and always full of energy, even up to her retirement in her late 70s.

As a true civil servant, Ina Boon continued to give back after her retirement through her work on many St. Louis area boards such as the Myrtle Hilliard Davis Comprehensive Health Center, the St. Louis Black Roundtable, and the Eastern Star Missionary Baptist Church. She even provided her expertise to help the local St. Louis County NAACP, where she volunteered to serve as their branch president.

Ina Boon is survived by her son Gentry Trotter, founder of Heat-Up St. Louis/Cool Down St. Louis. Like his mother, Gentry Trotter saw the needs in the community and stepped up to address them. His organization focuses on regional energy assistance to help as a safety net to prevent low-income families, seniors, and people with disabilities from losing their heat or air-conditioning in times of freezing temperatures or the excessive summer heat. The organization also offers energy; efficiency education and advocates for public engagement regarding utility rates, health, and safety issues. Ina Boon leaves behind nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and seven great and great-great-grandchildren. She will be missed by many, but her work and efforts will never be forgotten.●

RECOGNIZING MOUNTAIN HOME AIR FORCE BASE AND THE 366TH FIGHTER WING

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, my colleague Senator JIM RISCH joins me today in honoring Mountain Home Air Force Base both on its 75-year anniversary and the 366th Fighter Wing of Mountain Home Air Force Base on its 50-year anniversary of being recognized as the "Gunfighters."

According to historical accounts from Mountain Home Air Force Base, the 366th Fighter Wing's roots trace back much further than 50 years, all the way to the activation of the 366th Fighter Group in 1943. The fighter group participated in action over France, ground support in the Normandy invasion, air attacks near St. Lo, France, and attacks and reconnaissance in the Battle of the Bulge. Following World War II, the fighter group went through deactivations, reactivations, redesignations, and base reassignments before earning its nickname, the "Gunfighters," in the 1960s, for its weapons innovation and effectiveness in accomplishing its missions in Vietnam. The wing became renowned as the Gunfighters after it mounted Gatling gun pods on its aircraft wings to improve short-range capabilities in battling enemy aircraft over Vietnam. The Gunfighters' effectiveness was recognized with a Presidential unit citation. The tenacity and ingenuity at the heart of the wing and its earning its Gunfighters moniker is an attribute we celebrate today.

While both the fighter wing and Mountain Home Air Force Base started taking shape in 1943, it was not until 1972 that the two combined when the then-366th Tactical Fighter Wing, later redesignated the 366th Fighter Wing, moved from Vietnam to its current location at Mountain Home Air Force Base. Mountain Home Air Force Base reports that the base first opened on August 7, 1943. The base has since been home to many of our Nation's outstanding servicemembers, including the men and women of the 366th Fighter Wing. From accommodating the training of crews for a variety of aircraft to supporting combat, covert, and special operations missions, the base has a long history of remarkable contributions to defending Americans and allies both at home and all around the world. As part of its more recent service, Mountain Home Air Force Base has provided personnel and equipment to support efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as throughout Southwest Asia.

The approximately 3,500 military and civilian members and 4,300 family members of the 366th Fighter Wing and Mountain Home Air Force Base have an extensive record of excellence. In 2015 and 2016, the 366th Fighter Wing received the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, adding to a long list of accomplishments of the men and women of Mountain Home Air Force Base. The families of the 366th Fighter Wing and

Mountain Home Air Force Base represent a lasting tradition of distinction in meeting our Nation's call to service. As we celebrate the significant milestones of the Mountain Home Air Force Base and 366th Fighter Wing, we also honor the exceptional dedication inherent in those who serve and the families who support their service.

Congratulations, Gunfighters and all those who support Mountain Home Air Force Base, on your decades of achievements and extraordinary service.●

REMEMBERING ELEANOR BYERS

● Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, today I wish to celebrate the life of my aunt, Eleanor Atwater Byers, who passed away peacefully on March 20, 2017. Nunnies, as she was affectionately known, was born on November 30, 1927, in Fall River, MA, and grew up in Tiverton and Providence, RI.

She grew up doing anything she could with water such as swimming, fishing, and sailing, as well as climbing trees, collecting arrowheads, and communing with the natural world on and around Nanaquaket Pond for the first 14 years of her life in Tiverton. At 12 years old, Nunnies took her first photograph with a Brownie camera of her best friend. At age 14, her family started to summer in Little Compton, RI, and while her childhood pals continued to sail and swim, Nunnies photographed the Sakonnet landscape. She continued snapping pictures until age 22 and then never photographed again until 30 years later. After the loss of her family's home to fire in 1940, Nunnies and her family moved to Providence, where she attended Lincoln School. After graduating from Lincoln School in 1945, Nunnies went to Bradford Junior College in Haverhill, MA. Soon after graduating from Bradford in 1947, Nunnies suffered a broken back from a skiing accident which required a year's recovery, including many months in a full body cast. This injury would be a source of physical discomfort and limit her mobility for the rest of her life, but it would fail to squelch her mischievous and indomitable spirit.

Ahead of her times and a true adventurer, Nunnies joined the American Friends Field Service and participated in a mission trip to the village of Santiago Ixcuintla in Nayarit, Mexico. She taught in health clinics and schools to improve the quality of life for the native Huichol and Mexican women and children with whom she fell in love. Soon after her return from Mexico, she accepted the marriage proposal of Randolph Kunhardt Byers, Jr., of Milton, MA, and they were married in August of 1951.

Randy's enlistment in the Army took them to Lawton, OK. They then returned to Rhode Island where Nunnies gave birth to their first of four children, Elizabeth "Libby". In 1955, they moved to Wilton, CT, while also bringing son Bartlett "Bart" Cooke into the world. Two more daughters were to follow, Eleanor "Ellie" and Mary.